



Iowa Association of
Regional Councils

Legislative Agenda 2015

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. **IARC seeks continued state financial support of Councils of Governments and encourages the annual appropriation be increased to \$500,000.**

In 2014, the seventeen (17) Councils of Governments collectively received an appropriation of \$200,000, the first increase in nearly 20 years, but still only \$11,674 per region.

Why an Increase?

COGs provide valuable and unduplicated services to cities and counties, especially small communities without professional staff.

The 2008 disasters that struck Iowa led to an unprecedented response of Federal and State funds to cities and counties for recovery. In many cases, COGs led the planning and programming of those funds for affected governments.

Each COG provides programs and services based on the unique needs of its region and its communities. In general, COGs work in several areas:

- Community planning
 - comprehensive plans
 - housing needs assessments
 - solid waste management
 - pre-disaster mitigation
- Grant writing and administration
- Transportation planning and funding
- Housing
- Revolving loans for businesses
- Economic development
- GIS
- Public transportation

Iowa Association of Regional Councils

2321 N. Loop Drive Suite 121 Ames IA 50010 • 515.777.0487 • mbfoster@iastate.edu

www.iarcog.com



Iowa Association of
Regional Councils

Legislative Agenda 2015

The total impact of COGs statewide is significant. In the last **five years** COGs have:

- Created and/or retained more than 2,600 jobs through small business loans that provide gap financing
- Programmed more than \$453 million in Federal transportation funds
- Rehabilitated 2,900 homes, both renter and owner-occupied
- Financed more than 1,300 new homes
- Secured and administered more than \$226 million in funds for water and sewer infrastructure projects

2. **IARC favors exploration of additional opportunities to help watersheds** develop and improve water quality through regionalization with key partners, including local governments.

3. **IARC supports Legislative proposals for increased road construction funding**, including additional fuel taxes.

4. **IARC will monitor Legislative proposals for modification to property tax collection formulas and Tax Increment Financing (TIF).** IARC supports orderly growth and development, local decision making, and the provision of adequate resources to local governments, so that they may appropriately and adequately govern.

5. **IARC will monitor priorities set by the Iowa League of Cities and the Iowa State Association of Counties** to identify potential synergies in proposals and consider support of the same.

6. **IARC will monitor priorities set by the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) and other state agencies** to identify potential synergies in proposals and consider support of the same.

For more information, or to find the COG that serves your city, please visit www.iarcog.com or call 515-777-0487.

Iowa Association of Regional Councils

2321 N. Loop Drive Suite 121 Ames IA 50010 • 515.777.0487 • mbfoster@iastate.edu

www.iarcog.com